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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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General Conditions

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1. The number of Russian civilians in Lithuania seems to be especially large at present. [] the populations of Klaipeda and Vilnius are about seventy percent Russian, that of Kaunas between thirty-five and forty percent Russian, and that of Panevezys, in north central Lithuania, about fifty percent Russian. Panevezys is a center for Soviet soldiers. Russians hold almost all higher government posts in Lithuania. It is not necessary, however, for the Lithuanians who have more important government positions to be members of the Communist Party.
2. It is not thought that conditions in Lithuania have improved since the war, despite the efforts which have been expended by the people. Collectivization in agriculture is still being met by strong opposition and has not been introduced in all Lithuanian farming areas. It is not known what type of resistance efforts have been made by residents of **kolkhozy**, since incidents of sabotage are carefully concealed from the population.

Deportations

3. The last large deportation of Lithuanian civilians took place in 1950. In Klaipeda the deportation was carried out by uniformed MVD personnel and civilian aides. The deportees were assembled at the MGB headquarters across from the Klaipeda hospital and were moved from the city in about thirty trucks. It is said that these trucks were employed twenty-four hours a day for a full week to move the deportees, who consisted of farmers, students, and teachers; three doctors were deported from Klaipeda at this time.

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Police Methods

4. House searches in Lithuania are not unusual. [] one family [] had its home searched four times in three years. In each case the search was

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made by about ten men, including several uniformed MVD troops. The search was very thorough, and the floor was broken open in several places. No motive was offered for the search, and members of the family were released upon completion of the investigation. It is said that homes of persons living on kolkhozy are often searched. Check of persons on the street is fairly unusual, [] document checks on the streets in Vilnius on two different occasions during July 1951. The most common type of document check is that made at a railroad station, when an arriving train is surrounded and all travelers are required to show their documents. []

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Resistance Activities

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5. Signs of passive resistance are still fairly common in Lithuania. On 16 February, the Lithuanian independence day, it is usual to see illegal nationalist posters in most cities. Students are thought to be especially interested in resistance work and belong to various secret groups. [] these students work without any definite goal and that their activities are weakened by lack of routine and a poor sense of security. A student resistance group was liquidated at the Zarasia (possibly Zarasai: 55-45N, 26-14E) school in June 1951, and at about the same time another group was disbanded at a teacher training institute at Klaipeda. The activities of the latter group were revealed to authorities by two women students who quarreled with each other and then approached the police. [] 50X1-HUM
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6. The total number of active partisans is unknown, but indications are that partisan activity is largely limited to small individual actions. Groups of partisans rarely include more than four or five men, and there has been no strong partisan activity of the type which existed as late as 1947, when partisans were able to occupy and hold villages. During 1949 and 1950, wounded partisan leaders were forcibly released from hospitals on three occasions, and in one instance a police guard over a hospitalized partisan was shot. During the spring of 1951, about twenty partisans made a raid against the community of Baltriskes (approximately 55-40N, 25-58E) and shot members of the local government. The usual type of partisan activity is limited to posting threats or making individual attacks against persons known to be collaborating with the Communists.
7. Up to the middle of 1949, it was usual for the Russians to place the bodies of persons whom they had executed for resistance activities in the public squares of communities. Such steps have been discontinued and the authorities are now attempting to check popular aid to the partisans by rigid enforcement of anti-partisan laws. Recently two shoemakers were arrested for selling shoes to partisans and were sentenced to twenty-five years' imprisonment. Despite the risks of aiding the partisans, [] relations between partisans and the civil population are good and say that they know of one instance where a group of six partisans spent twenty-four hours with a rural wedding party without being reported to the authorities. [] 50X1-HUM

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